Deric & Rebecca Sneller

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THROUGH JESUS,
THEREFORE, LET US
CONTINUALLY OFFER
TO GOD A SACRIFICE
OF PRAISE—THE FRUIT
OF LIPS THAT OPENLY
PROFESS HIS NAME.

HEBREWS 13:15 NIV



Thanks For What I Have Been Given

It is good to give thanks for what I currently have. However, my thanks should extend beyond what I possess at present to all I have been given. Such a broad accounting considers the whole scope of my life. Besides my current considerations, everything in my background that has brought me to now is all grace. Rebecca and I often think in terms of stewardship, which has its virtue, but to consider all the gifts of grace throughout our lives is staggering. There is only one response: thanks and praise.

What is causing me to think this way? The recent death of my grandfather certainly contributes to the way I am looking at life reflectively and holistically. I am also

thinking back on the life, friendships, and ministry we had in Okinawa—things that are just beginning here in Germany. It will take time, and it will not be the same. I will also not be the same because God is growing me through the discomfort of these different things. I read somewhere that "Nostalgia is a nice place to visit, but you cannot live there." This living, dying, and living-after-dying is sobering stuff. Life is both an important investment and a joy-filled journey.

So, we are making a life and seeking to be about the business of living. After all, this is what Christ came for. "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

(John 10:10b). For years now, I have identified with and found comfort in those people described in Hebrews: "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect" (Hebrews 11:39–40). Like them, we live with a heavenward discontent, trusting a providential plan, and together, in Christ, we are made perfect. That is the way to live; that is the example to follow.









This brings me to you. You have shared in our lives and shared your life with us. What a gift! You are in the stories we reminisce about with gratitude. You are in the life lessons we reflect on with great thought. You are on our minds and in our prayers. Because of you, we have been able to share the gospel and our lives with military people. It is with you we walk forward in faith. Thank you.

As you take a personal inventory of those who make up your life, we invite you to share our story with a few of them. There are people you know whom we have yet to meet who may be interested in this work. Again, we appreciate all the ways that you have come alongside us. It is a privilege to have partners like you, and we look forward to seeing who else God brings to our team. Know we think of you frequently and fondly. Happy Thanksgiving!

Much love and God bless,

Deric Sneller (on behalf of the Snellers)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for our hearts as we grieve past ministry and invest in present ministry.
- Pray we discern what needs to be done and when, as well as what doesn't.
- Pray we lean on enduring friendships while establishing new friendships.
- Pray we give and receive grace as we live out our first year of significant transition.
- Pray for consistent and sufficient monthly support or one-time gifts to cover the difference.
- Pray for Rebecca as she continues her schooling with a semester of independent study in preparation for her thesis.
- Pray we would love and care for our community well and adapt the teaching accordingly.



"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil."

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-22



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